Office to take up field investigations, studies and preparation of Detailed Project Report of Sapata Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage cum Diversion Scheme. The project *inter alia* will have flood control benefits for the State of Bihar.

In furtherance to the Master Plan prepared by the Brahmaputra Board for effective flood control in North East on a long term basis and to exploit the large hydro-electric potential available in Brahmaputra Valley, investigations of two projects namely the Siang (Dihang) Dam Project and the Subansiri Dam Project were pursued and project reports were prepared by the Brahmaputra Board. These projects, which are now to be taken up in three stages each, have since been transferred to National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC). NHPC has already initiated action for execution of Lower Subansiri Dam Project, while other projects are under various stages of investigations/implementation by NHPC.

For flood control benefits in Assam the Government of India have approved the following schemes, which have been taken up for implementation by the Brahmaputra Board:

(i) Pagladiya Dam Project with an estimated cost of Rs. 542.90 crore.

(ii) Harrang Drainage Development Scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 30.49 crore.

(iii) Avulsion of Brahmaputra river at Dholla Hathighulli at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.47 crore.

In addition the Government of India has also been providing financial assistance under the Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes to the various State Governments to take up critical anti-erosion and other flood management works.

However, at present there is no Central scheme for flood control formulated with the help of World Bank.

World Bank assistance to Rajasthan

1790. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board is negotiating with the World Bank for advancing soft loans with a view to arresting the

continuous depleting ground water tables in 14 districts of Western Rajasthan;

(b) whether the CGWB has also evolved schemes for the replenishment of the ground water table in the affected areas of Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the details in this regard indicating the amount of financial assistance sought from the World Bank; and

(d) the details of progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has evolved a Central Sector Scheme on "Study of Recharge to Ground Water" on pilot basis under which 18 projects are under implementation in the districts of Jaipur, Jhunjhunu, Udaipur and Sikar in Rajasthan. In addition, CGWB has prepared a report entitled "Towards green Thar desert through ground water recharge" which envisages recharge of ground water utilizing canal/flood water in Thar desert covering 13 districts of Western Rajasthan *viz.* Barmer, Churu, Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Pali, Sirohi and Sikar. The source water for ground water recharge would be available from- (a) conjunctive use of surface and ground water in canal command areas of Ganganagar and Hanumangarh districts, (b) Ghaggar river floodwater collected in natural depressions, (c) water outflow from Harrike Barrage during monsoon periods and (d) adoption of water saving irrigation practices and cropping patterns. For these schemes, no financial assistance has been sought from the World Bank.

(d) Does not arise.

Employment opportunities through inter-linking of rivers

1791. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the employment opportunities expected to be generated from the proposed inter-linking of rivers;

(b) the share of Rajasthan therefrom;